

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00394 311620Z
ACTION ARA-14

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AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 958
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0394

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GY, BH
SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT BY COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN PRIME
 MINISTERS

REF: GEORGETOWN 0393

1. FOLLOWING FROM PRIME MINISTER ADAMS TO PRIME MINISTERS OF
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN NATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL FROM
THE PREMIER OF BELIZE, THE HONOURABLE GEORGE PRICE, IN WHICH
HE HAS ASKED US TO ISSUE A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF BELIZE'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FOLLOWING HIS RECENT DISCUSSION IN
LONDON WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY-GENERAL AS WELL AS CARIBBEAN HIGH COMMISSIONERS.
I AM TAKING THIS INITIATIVE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT
BARBADOS IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ON
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BELIZE. I SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING BE CONSIDERED FOR
JOINT ISSUE:

2. 'COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN PRIME MINISTERS HAVE VIEWED WITH
MOUNTING CONCERN THE INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
ON THE QUESTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL

INTEGRITY OF BELIZE.

3. 'THE PRIME MINISTERS HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AS WELL AS THOSE MADE BY PREMIER PRICE. THE PRIME MINISTERS REAFFIRM THAT THE INVIOABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE MUST BE PRESERVED; AND THEREFORE STRONGLY OBJECT TO CESSION OF LAND AS A MEANS OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE OVER THE CLAIM OF GUATEMALA TO PART OF THE TERRITORY OF BELIZE.

4. THE PRIME MINISTERS, THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE TO INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WITH SECURE BORDERS. ALL CARIBBEAN PEOPLE, HOLDING FIRM TO THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE UN CHARTER, FULLY SUPPORT THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN WHICH THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED.

5. 'THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IN 1977 ALSO REAFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO THESE SELF-SAME PRINCIPLES WHICH ALL GOVERNMENTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CARIBBEAN HAVE REPEATEDLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY SET FORWARD AS BEING OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF OUR REGION.

6. 'THE PRIME MINISTERS THEREFORE CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CONTINUE IN ITS EFFORTS IN FULL COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE TO BRING AN EARLY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE LONGSTANDING PROBLEM WHICH HAS PREVENTED THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE FROM EXERCISING THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

7. 'THE PRIME MINISTERS REITERATE THEIR BELIEF THAT CESSION OF LAND IS NOT A JUST SOLUTION BUT THAT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY MUST BE PRESERVED.'
BURKE

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